



# Headlines

A Bimonthly  
Indiana NRCS Newsletter


July, 2014

Issue 51

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## Heart to Heart with Hardisty

 This summer, Indiana NRCS will once again participate in the Feds Feed Families campaign which officially began on June 1 and will run through August 27, 2014. I want to encourage all Indiana NRCS field offices to participate in this campaign and donate non-perishable food items to their local food banks. Since the campaign began in 2009, a combined effort of all federal employees has resulted in 24.1 million pounds of food and other non-perishable items donated to support families across America. I want to give thanks in advance to everyone that will dedicate their time to help make this program a big success this year.



*Jane Hardisty*  
*State Conservationist*

 The 2014 Indiana State Fair is quickly approaching and will run from August 1-17, 2014. NRCS employees are encouraged to volunteer at exhibits in the DuPont Food Pavilion or at Pathway to Water Quality. We will feature USDA's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative at the DuPont Food Pavilion on August 13 and 14 or volunteers can participate in one of six Pathway to Water Quality positions through the duration of the state fair. Also at Pathway to Water Quality we will feature several soil health demonstrations on key days of the fair. If you would like to volunteer for the DuPont Food Pavilion or soil health demonstrations, please contact Kris Vance at: [kris.vance@in.usda.gov](mailto:kris.vance@in.usda.gov). To sign up for Pathway to Water Quality, visit: [www.pathwaytowaterquality.org](http://www.pathwaytowaterquality.org).

 NACD, along with NRCS, EPA and IASWCD, will be hosting a special Soil Health Forum and Conservation Tour in Indianapolis on July 21st and 22nd. Participants will tour multiple farms, highlighting on-the-ground conservation practices supported by USDA Farm Bill and EPA 319 programs. This is a great opportunity for Soil and Water Districts throughout the country to learn more about the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative. Thanks to all of our employees and partners who are involved in making this effort come to life.

*Jane E. Hardisty*

**\*\* \* \* Employee Spotlight \* \* \* \***

**Evan Smith, Lawrence County District Conservationist**

**Q: Are you an Indiana native?**

I grew up in the country on the Hendricks and Morgan County line. I was blessed to get an acceptance letter from Purdue University and began working on my Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology. After my sophomore year I joined the Army National Guard and left for Fort Sill in Oklahoma and then to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for training. Once I returned to Purdue I decided to broaden my options by transferring into the Agronomy Department to obtain a Natural Resources and Environmental Science degree. That switch turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made.

**Q: Before coming NRCS, what did you do?**

Before coming to NRCS I was working and studying at Purdue. I worked all week and studied as much as I could so I could be free to hit the woods or we could go ride the motorcycle on the weekends. I lucked out by finding one of those "keepers" at Purdue. In 2009 I married my college sweetheart Jessica. We did everything we could to enjoy life at Purdue by attending football games, basketball games, and by stopping by Harry's Chocolate Shop on occasion for a special treat.

**Q: How did your past work experience prepare you for your current position with NRCS?**

Before I went to Purdue I spend some time as a Survey Technician for Banning Engineering in Plainfield. I worked with a great deal of surveying equipment and learned a lot from it. I never thought that experience would end up helping me so much through my career. I can usually understand what the technical team is trying to say and how to complete the job.

Before I was offered a SCEP position with NRCS I had an internship with JF New working on invasive species removal and wetland rehabilitation. I'm glad I got the field experience and was able to learn many invasive species and spending some time outdoors. I can say that I enjoy working for NRCS much more than I did spraying chemicals all day through wetlands.

**Q: What are you looking forward to most in your position?**

I got my start with NRCS in the SCEP program. I was lucky enough to train in Parke and Clay County and then as a Soil Conservationist in Howard and Tipton County. I was selected as the DC in Lawrence County in late October. I can tell you that the landscape and wildlife have me captivated with this area. I have been able to work with many hard working farmers and many of them have a wildlife interest which is something I am very interested in. It seems like every time I go to the field I am in a different type of topography and a different land use. Getting out to the field and seeing the rolling hills down here is amazing. With the amount of cattle this area produces the farmers are very hands on. I really look forward to being able to help these farmers continue implementing conservation. No-

till, cover crops, rotational grazing, and other conservation practices are the norm down here. I really look forward to being a part of the conservation efforts in Lawrence County.

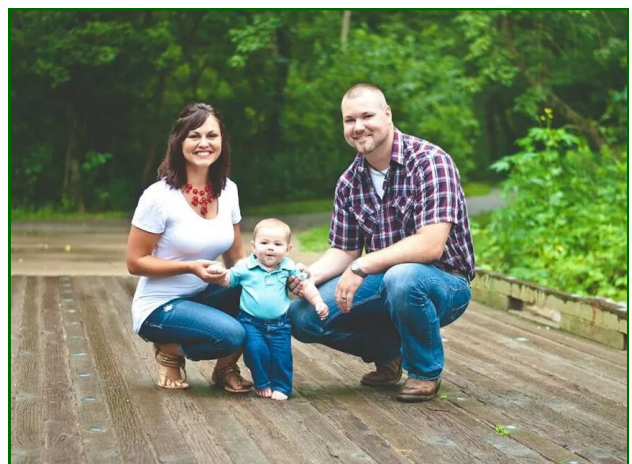
**Q: Do you have any professional or personal goals for 2014?**

Professionally I am excited to have met a few of my goals already for 2014. I was able to move to southern Indiana to become a DC and was awarded my Conservation Planning Certification. I feel like things have really come together this past year and I am excited for this new adventure. I plan to continue developing as a District Conservationist and becoming more involved with our agricultural community.

My personal goals for this year are to slow down and enjoy more family time. My wife and I welcomed our son Rhettman into the world in January. I can tell you that my whole life has changed and we couldn't imagine our life without him. I am working on becoming a better Christian and I want to do everything I can to be the best husband and father I can. I look forward to more porch sitting and walks together through the woods. So far, 2014 has been an amazing year for us.

**Q: What do you do in your spare time when you're not working for NRCS?**

Anyone who has talked to me for more than five minutes knows that I have a passion for the outdoors. If I'm not out in the woods hunting, I am usually thinking about hunting. I love to be deer hunting in a tree or out in the field working my bird dog Wesson. We spend a lot of time riding, hiking, camping, and shooting. I am very excited about teaching Rhett about the outdoors, although my wife doesn't agree that my five month old needs his own gun yet. For now I am going to enjoy watching him grow and take in every minute I can!



*Evan Smith, District Conservationist, with wife Jessica and son Rhett*

## Hoosier Happenings

### KUDOS TO:

**Bill Lambert, Area Easement Program Specialist**, and **Kelley Barkell, District Conservationist**, for allowing me to tag along as they did site monitoring in Adams County. Both Bill and Kelley were very helpful in answering questions and they provided a great deal of information about the sites in the area. It was very helpful for me to actually “see” the areas and now I have a much better understanding of how the sites are set up and how they all relate to each other. I know that both Bill and Kelley have pending deadlines to meet and a lot of work to get done, so I just want to say how much I appreciated them taking the time out of their schedules to do this for me. — **Carey Lindgren, Easements Acquisition Specialist**

**Jennifer Chen, Resource Conservationist**, for developing a Toolkit Add-In to automatically insert the CRP Maintenance and Mid Contract Management language into CRP Plans per policy. This tool will greatly improve efficiency in place of the previous hard-copy process. — **Shannon Zezula, State Resource Conservationist**

**Becky Fletcher, State Public Affairs Specialist**, and **Kris Vance, Public Affairs Specialist**, for all the help and support you gave me with the Manure Management presentation. The whole process was definitely a lot easier with your help especially during these busy days at the field office. — **Jayson Mas, District Conservationist**

**Jamie Shonkwiler, Soil Conservationist**, for doing an outstanding job as acting Resource Management Specialist while I was out. — **Curtis Knueven, Resource Management Specialist**

**Dan Hovland, Area Conservationist**, for contributions towards the past three Area Quality Program Reviews. Dan’s knowledge and willingness to update and maintain the database was exemplary. — **Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist**

**Kristi Kennedy, Soil Conservationist**, in recognition of excellent performance as acting District Conservationist in the Bloomington field office. — **Dan Hovland, Area Conservationist**

**Chris Morse, GIS Specialist**, for diligently working to fix recurring issues and the reconfigure the Toolkit T&E and Cultural Resources processes to be more reliable and stable for future use. These tools are critical to NRCS for efficiently meeting the agency’s NEPA requirements. — **Shannon Zezula, State Resource Conservationist**

**Al Tinsley, Wetland Specialist**, for coordinating joint NRCS/FSA guidance related to processes, communication, and policy that will improve efficiency and effectiveness. — **Shannon Zezula, State Resource Conservationist**

### INDIANA NRCS’ CREAM OF THE CROP

Indiana NRCS employees do more than just support Indiana! They also support National Headquarters on details and pilot teams and as advisors. Over the last year, the following employees have been involved in national projects:

- ◇ **Elana Cass**—Administrative Transformation; Workforce Planning
- ◇ **Jennifer Chen**—CDSI and New Toolkit 7; Payment Schedule Team
- ◇ **Beth Clarizia**—National Payment Schedule Team
- ◇ **Scott Crist**—Currently providing simplified acquisition assistance to Delaware as part of the Administrative Transformation Purchasing and Procurement Continuity
- ◇ **Barry Fisher**—National Soil Health Team; NEDC Instructor
- ◇ **Becky Fletcher**—National Soil Health Communications Team, Public Affairs Modernization Team Pilot
- ◇ **Connie Givens**—Currently providing HR processing assistance to Texas as part of the Administrative Transformation HR Continuity
- ◇ **Jane Hardisty**—Acting Associate Chief for Operations; Acting Deputy Chief for Management; Chair of the Administrative Transformation State Conservationist Advisory Team; National Soil Health
- ◇ **Adam Heichelbech**—National Payment Schedule Team
- ◇ **Alyson Keaton**—Lean Six Sigma National Team; Currently providing LAPC services to Louisiana and Delaware as part of Administrative Transformation Purchasing and Procurement Continuity; National Interim Service Team for Purchase Card Program; NEDC Instructor
- ◇ **Brianne Lowe**—National Easement Staging Tool Team
- ◇ **Dena Marshall**—NEDC Instructor
- ◇ **Susan Meadows**—NEDC Instructor
- ◇ **Deb Montgomery**—Currently providing HR processing assistance to Texas as part of the Administrative Transformation HR Continuity
- ◇ **Jill Reinhart**—National RCPP Design Team
- ◇ **Chris Ritz**—NEDC Instructor
- ◇ **Jerry Roach**—Acting National Easements Team Leader
- ◇ **Kris Vance**—Public Affairs Modernization Team Pilot
- ◇ **Gail Voiles**—Implementation Team for ETS2 Travel System
- ◇ **Mary Jo Woodruff**—National Appeals Cadre
- ◇ **Shannon Zezula**—Acting MRBI Coordinator; Edge of Field Monitoring National Guidance; Workforce Planning; National Soil Health
- ◇ **Robert Zupancic**—NEDC Instructor



## Hoosier Happenings (cont.)

### **SPECIAL EMPHASIS: ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN**

*Submitted by Akhtar Soomro, SEPM—Asian American/Pacific Islander*

Initially, the week beginning May 4, 1979, was designated as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week." In 1990, the week-long celebration was extended to a month-long celebration designating the month of May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month." The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese people to the U.S. on May 7, 1843 and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad by many Chinese laborers on May 10, 1869.

Because of the two important anniversaries mentioned earlier, many people today assume the Chinese or the Japanese were the first Asian Americans to set foot on American soil; however, the first Asian Americans were Filipino men. In 1763, they fled mistreatment aboard Spanish ships, settled in Saint Malo, Louisiana, and married Cajun and Native American women. Fifteen years later in 1778, Chinese sailors settled in Hawaii and married Hawaiian women. When Hawaii and the Philippines became U.S. territories in 1898, residents who were mostly Asians received U.S. citizenship. Later in the mid-19th century, Chinese and Japanese immigrated into the U.S.

Asian Americans are Americans of Asian descent having origins in any of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese. According to the 2010 Census, Asian Americans comprise 5.6% (17,320,856) of the U.S. population and grew 46% faster than any other racial group between 2000 and 2010. Census projections expect the number to increase to more than 40 million by 2050.

Pacific Islander are Americans who have ancestry in Polynesia (including Hawaii, American Samoa, New Zealand), Melanesia (including Fiji Island, New Guinea), and Micronesia (including Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau). According to the 2010 Census, Pacific Islanders make up 0.4% (1,225,195) of the U.S. population and grew 40% faster than any other racial group between 2000 and 2010. Census projections expect the number to increase to more than 2.6 million by 2050.

The month of May is designated as a time to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate all the contributions of our Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Thank you for taking the opportunity this month to celebrate and learn more about the culture and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have helped fulfill the promise of the American dream.

### **DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING HELD**

NRCS held two successful Drainage Water Management trainings on June 10th at the Davis Purdue Ag Center new Farmland and June 11th at the Throckmorton Purdue Ag Center south of Lafayette. The training was provided by Mike Cox, NRCS State Conservation Engineer, Beth Clariza, NRCS Agricultural Engineer and two Extension professors—Jane Frankenberger of Purdue and Larry Brown of Ohio State.

This field training followed an online module training that participants were able to complete on their own.

Attendees participated in hands-on practice design, saw sites in the field and applied Drainage Water Management practices to the field sites. There

were a total of 37 students who participated in these trainings, consisting of a mixture of NRCS, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Soil and Water Conservation District employees.



*Matt Patton, Huntington Tech Team Leader, explains a DWM layout to Jane Frankenberger.*

Drainage Water Management involves installing control structures in tile drained fields to allow the producer to control when and how much water drains from the field. Some water can be held back during the growing season to potentially bump yield during dry periods. More water and excess nutrients can be held back during fallow periods (such as winter) to decrease the amount of nitrates going downstream. NRCS is promoting this practice in flat, tile drained areas of the Mississippi River Basin area as an effort to reduce nitrates going to the Gulf of Mexico.

### **Partnership Links**

**IN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Bi-Weekly**

Updates: [www.iaswcd.org/whatsnew/index.html](http://www.iaswcd.org/whatsnew/index.html)

**IN Conservation Partnership:** <http://icp.iaswcd.org>

**IN Dept. of Environmental Management:** [www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem)

**IN Dept. of Natural Resources:** [www.in.gov/dnr](http://www.in.gov/dnr)

**IN State Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation:**

<http://www.in.gov/isda/soil/>

**Purdue University:** [www.purdue.edu](http://www.purdue.edu)

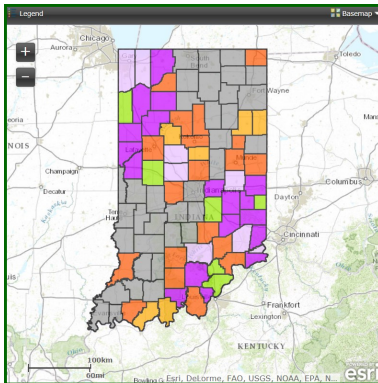
**USDA Farm Service Agency:** [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Hoosier Happenings (cont.)

### COMPLIANCE SLIDE RESOURCE AVAILABLE

USDA staff in Indiana use 35mm slides of historical imagery from each county collected between 1979 and 1994, for a variety of tasks. To preserve the images on the slides, Indiana is scanning the slides into digital image files for distribution to USDA staff in the local Service Center Offices.

The state office has been gathering the scanned compliance slide images from the Areas to organize and standardize the deployment of these files for statewide access. This process uses a simple hyperlinking tool where you can click a point on the map and the corresponding slide image opens in Windows Photo Viewer.



*Indiana Compliance Slide Resource map is available on the Indiana NRCS webpage.*

You can check out a current map of the status of the compliance slides processing project at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/technical/dma/gis/?cid=stelprdb1256178](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/technical/dma/gis/?cid=stelprdb1256178). The map will be updated as we continue working to create indexes and publish the finished data.

Also, we have completed the first draft of guidance for our users to access

the slides. ***This guidance is only for employees and partners with ArcMap and USDA network access.*** This guide also has a section explaining to our advanced users how they can build up an archive of slides on an external device.

“Accessing Compliance Slides Through ArcMap 10 v1” is located on the Indiana NRCS SharePoint under Technology in the HEL-WC documents section or available by clicking here: [https://ems-team.usda.gov/sites/NRCS\\_Indiana/technology/Technology%20Documents/HEL-WC/Accessing%20Compliance%20Slides%20Through%20ArcMap10%20v1.pdf](https://ems-team.usda.gov/sites/NRCS_Indiana/technology/Technology%20Documents/HEL-WC/Accessing%20Compliance%20Slides%20Through%20ArcMap10%20v1.pdf)

*Please note* - The feature for cross-county access is pending final testing of permissions settings and may not be fully functional until we get the permissions settings just right.

For more information about this interactive map, please contact Chris Morse, GIS Specialist at: 317-295-5849 or by e-mail at: [chris.morse@in.usda.gov](mailto:chris.morse@in.usda.gov).

### SOIL HEALTH CAMPAIGN WINS AWARD

The National Soil Health Communications Team, including our very own Becky Fletcher, made history a couple of months ago when the “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil” campaign became the first NRCS campaign to become a finalist in the Public Relations Society of America’s (PRSA) Silver Anvil Awards. On June 12th, they made history again when the campaign became the first NRCS campaign to receive the Silver Anvil Award of Excellence.



“The Award of Excellence recognizes strategic public relations programs that are among the very best our profession produces in a given year,” said James J. Roop, 2014 Chair of the PRSA Awards and Honors Committee. “To receive a Silver Anvil Award of Excellence, programs must be of Silver Anvil caliber and represent some of the best thinking, execution and results in the public relations industry.”

It’s fair to say that winning the award represents a remarkable professional achievement. Competing effectively against the best public relations firms in the business is difficult, to say the least, and the causes these firms represent are often emotionally compelling and well-funded. Plus those big firms don’t often face the same creative constrictions inherent in our operational environment. To be able to compete effectively at the highest level in the public relations industry is a tribute to your professionalism, dedication and tenacity.

But credit for this recognition goes far beyond our team, our agency’s leadership, the Public Affairs Division and the NRCS state public affairs officers across the nation—to everyone who has worked tirelessly to make the hope in healthy soil a reality on an increasing number of our nation’s farms and ranches—especially our nation’s soil health farmers.

## PERSONNEL UPDATE

### REASSIGNMENTS

Theresa Hadley, State Office Assistant on the STC Staff reassigned to the Field Operations Assistant at the SE Area Office in North Vernon effective 8-10-14.

### RESIGNATIONS

John Norfleet, District Conservationist at the Mount Vernon FO resigned effective 7-11-14.

## Historical Photo of the Issue



As the Public Affairs staff continues to sort through filing cabinets of old photos to archive, we thought it would be fun to share some of our favorites and the descriptions that were included with each photo.

**DATE:** July, 1955

**LOCATION:** Lafayette, Indiana

**TITLE:** Irrigation

**DESCRIPTION:** Culver experimental field of thickly planted irrigated corn (510) on Plainfield sandy loam.

## Mark Your Calendar

| July   | July, continued                 | August, continued                 |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8: SAC/FAC Meeting                                 | 28: World Conservation Day      | 18: Women's Learning Circle       |
| 9: Southeast Area Meeting                          | 29: Northwest Area Meeting      | 19: In-Depth Soil Health Training |
| 15: Area Conservationist Meeting                   | 30: Southwest Area Meeting      | ICP Leaders Meeting               |
| CRP Readiness Plant ID Training                    | 31: SSCB Meeting                | Women's Learning Circle           |
| National LICA Meeting                              |                                 | 20: Leadership Team Meeting       |
| 16: Leadership Team Meeting                        | <b>August</b>                   | Women's Learning Circle           |
| CRP Readiness Mid Contract Mgmt Training           | 1-17: Indiana State Fair        | 26: Northwest Area Meeting        |
| Soil Health Presentation and Media Skills Training | 4: National Civil Rights Review | 27: Southwest Area Meeting        |
| 17: Indiana Field Employee Council Meeting         | 5: Northeast Area Meeting       | 28: IFEC Meeting                  |
| 21-23: NACD Summer Meeting and Soil Health Forum   | 6: Soil Health Expo             |                                   |
| 24: Soil Survey Planning Conference                | 12: SAC/FAC Meeting             |                                   |
| 25: 1st Round CSP Obligation Deadline              | 13: Southeast Area Meeting      |                                   |
| 27: International SWCS Meeting, Chicago, IL        | 16: National Honeybee Day       |                                   |



You can find up-to-date information about upcoming events on the Indiana SharePoint site at:  
<https://nrsc.sc.egov.usda.gov/central/in/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>